

Sol. Loeb Co. Warehouse, 1902
Northeast corner of 9th Street and Front Avenue
Columbus
Muscogee County
Georgia

HAER GA-24

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Sol Loeb Co.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Sol Loeb Warehouse

HAER GA-24

Location: 900 Front Avenue
Columbus, Georgia

Date of Construction: 1902

Present Owner: Sol Loeb Company

Present Use: Grocery Warehouse

Significance: Since its construction the building has housed a variety of enterprises. It first contained a syrup refinery and candy manufactory. The Mitchell Hosiery Mill occupied the structure between 1920 and 1929. In 1944 the Sol Loeb Company, then grocers to Columbus for nearly a century, took over the 2-story brick building, and still employ it as a warehouse.

Historian: J. B. Karfunkle, 1977.

Note: See GA-33, drawing sheet 13 of 13 for site location map and short descriptive statement.

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Sol Loeb Company Warehouse

The warehouse of the Sol Loeb Company is a 120 x 50 foot brick structure on Front Avenue at 9th Street (see SL photo 1). The uilding contains two stories and a full basement. The heavy interior post and beam framing remain in fine condition. The advertising painted on the brick exterior help the building retain its early twentieth century flavor (see SL photos 1 and 2).

The Cargill Wright Company built the structure in 1902. The building has housed a variety of enterprises. It first contained a syrup refinery and candy manufactory powered by steam. The Mitchell Hosiery Mill occupied the building between 1920 and 1929. The Sol Loeb Company acquired the property in 1944. [1]

The predecessor of this company was organized in 1868 by Sol Loeb and his sister Betty Loeb Kern. It was known as Kern and Loeb until 1901, and originally sold liquors and tobacco. As early as 1908 prohibition in Georgia transformed the Loeb's from liquor merchants to grocers, "marketing nationally known merchandise on a controlled basis." [2] The company traded both within, and outside of, Columbus.

By World War II the company adopted truck transport to replace its river traffic, in order to enhance trade outside the City. [3] Until this time the company warehouse was at 12th Street and Front Avenue. Perhaps the acquisition of the 9th Street property reflected the need for a building which could accommodate loading docks and which trucks could easily approach. [4]

The building still serves as a warehouse for the Sol Loeb Company. During the summer of 1977 the structure was part of a H.A.E.R. team planning study concerned with the revitalization of downtown Columbus in conjunction with the city's proposed trade/convention center.

Footnotes

1. Deed Books 201 (pp. 70, 91) and 255 (p. 343), Muscogee County Superior Court.
2. Sol Loeb Scrapbook (microfilm), Columbus College Archives, Columbus, Ga.
3. Ibid.
4. This is, of course, speculation. The company may simply have needed a larger warehouse building to accommodate an expanding business.

Bibliography

Deed Books 201 & 255, in Muscogee County Superior Court give information on ownership and incorporation.

Sanborn Insurance maps, 1907, 1929.

Sol Loeb Scrapbook (Microfilm), Columbus College Archives. This is the only source with any concentration of information on the Sol Loeb Company.